

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 10, 11, 14-19, 29, and 30 have been canceled. Claims 1-9, 12, 13, and 20-28 remain pending.

THE REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 and 17-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), based on Want.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, Want teaches an electronic tag that can be selectively enabled or disabled by operation of an interconnect switch. Want at 5:1-18. Want also teaches an electronic tag having a sensor for detecting a parameter and enabling or disabling the tag in response to the parameter sensed. Want at 5:25-41. Claim 1 recites a passive radio frequency transponder including “one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device.” The electronic tags taught by Want, which are either disabled and provide no response (i.e., are in an inactive state) when polled or are enabled and provide an active response when polled, do not change state “between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device,” as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-9, 12, 13, and 20-21 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Like claim 1, claim 22 recites, "one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device." As such, claim 22 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 23-28 depend from claim 22 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

[Provided are interactive RF tags. These tags] Interactive radio frequency tags that are responsive to external stimuli to change state are disclosed. [Interactive radio frequency tags in accordance with the present invention] The tags preferably include a passive radio frequency transponder, having an antenna, an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and one or more integrated circuits responsive to the external stimulus received at the interface to change the state of the transponder. [The nature of the interface and the corresponding external stimuli, as well as the change of state may vary substantially while remaining constant with this inventive concept. For example, the tags may include buttons which may be pushed to provide the external stimulus required to produce a change of state. Another type of interactive RF tag] Also disclosed is a "sensor tag" which changes state in response to a particular environmental stimulus. [For example, if a tag is exposed to light or heat that reaches a given threshold, an alternate memory location containing information reflecting this fact is accessed when the tag is polled by a reader.] In addition, either of these "button" or "sensor" features may be combined with an output feature which visually, audibly, tactilely or otherwise signals the state or change of state of an RF tag, or the tag may be designed to produce an output in response to the external stimulus of the RF signal received at the tag's antenna.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4:

As noted above radio frequency (RF) tag technology, particularly passive RF tag technology, has conventionally been used for identifying objects in radio frequency identification (RF ID) systems. Thus the conventional application of RF tags has been in tracking objects of

interest. When the tag comes within a RF signal field generated by a reader (transceiver) the tag responds to the [transceiver's] transceiver's incident RF signal alerting the [tanceiver] transceiver of its presence. A typical reader includes a computer processor which issues commands to a RF transmitter and receives commands from an RF receiver. The processor may also perform one or more functions based on the [tags] tag's presence in its RF field.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, comprising:

a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

an antenna,

an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and

one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device.

22. (Amended) A method of changing the response provided by a polled radio frequency tag, comprising:

providing an interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, having,

a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

an antenna,

an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and

one or more integrated circuits responsive to an external stimulus received at said interface to change the state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device; and

applying an external stimulus to said interface to change the state of said transponder.